



Pacific Ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus

Characteristics

Large deciduous shrub grows to 15 feet in both height and width. Forms thickets along rivers and in moist forest habitats. Leaves glossy green with 3 distinctive lobes. Leaf margins serrated. Name comes from appearance of the bark which is flaky, peeling away in many layers.

Flowers/Berries

Profusion of showy white dome-shaped flowers with numerous red-tipped stamens emerge in late spring. In summer, flower heads turn to papery red fruit with yellow seeds that are released in fall.

Habitat Value

Flowers provide nectar for many insects, including bees and butterflies. Mule Deer browse on buds, twigs and leaves. Provides excellent cover and nesting sites for Song Sparrows.

Home Garden Applications

Tough shrub that tolerates sun or shade, so-so soil, and wet to dry sites. Good to fill out a hedgerow, stabilize a bank, or perk up a mixed border. Shredding bronze-colored bark attractive in winter.